

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 37-39, 42, 49, 51 and 52 are presently pending in this application, Claims 41 and 47 having been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, Claims 40, 41 and 43-48 and 50 having been canceled, Claims 37, 49, 51 and 52 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 40, 46, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not enabling to one skilled in the relevant art; Claims 49-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite; and Claims 43-46, 48 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schwetz et al. (U.S. Patent 4,908,173). However, Claims 49, 51 and 52 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the telephone interviews granted to Applicants' attorney on November 3 and 4, 2004, and the indications that Claims 37-40 and 42 have been allowed and that Claims 49, 51 and 52 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

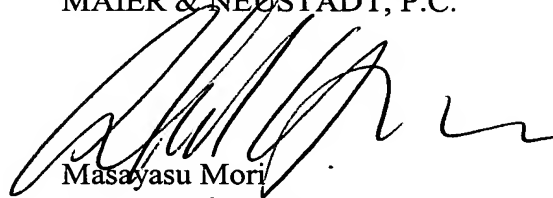
Pursuant to the telephone interview, Claims 37, 49, 50 and 51 have been amended herein. As discussed during the telephone interview, Claims 49, 50 and 51 have been amended to clarify the subject matters, and thus are believed to be in compliance with the requirement of the statute. Also, as discussed and acknowledged during the telephone interviews, Claim 37 has been amended solely for the purpose of clarity. Thus, the amendment in Claim 37 is merely cosmetic and is not believed to alter its original scope in any way. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 40, 41, 43-48 and 50 be

canceled without prejudice. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the amendments and discussions presented above, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive a mutually agreeable solution and expedite the prosecution of the present application.

In light of the discussions held during the interviews and in view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Masayasu Mori
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 47,301

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

Akihiro Yamazaki
Registration No. 46,155

MM/AY:fm
I:\ATTY\AKY\21s\219289\SUPAME.DOC